

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) A process for cutting at least one optical fiber, the process comprising the steps of:

- introducing a glass fiber into a holding and positioning device;
- actuating a laser device to deliver a beam having a power suitable for sublimating glass; and
- effecting the relative movement of said beam across said glass fiber along a path comprising two predetermined angles, thereby sublimating glass and cutting said glass fiber along said path to shape a wedge on the end face of the fiber.

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) A process for cutting at least one optical fiber, the process comprising the steps of:

- introducing a glass fiber into a holding and positioning device;
- actuating a laser device to deliver a beam having a power suitable for sublimating glass; and
- effecting the relative movement of said beam across said glass fiber along a path having a predetermined angle, thereby sublimating glass and cutting said glass fiber along said path, said predetermined angle being is-repeatable within less than  $\pm 0.5^\circ$  at the core region.

12. (cancelled).

13. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein said beam is a continuation wave.

14. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein said beam is a pulsed.

15. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein the laser is a CO<sub>2</sub> laser.

16-17. (cancelled)

18. (original) A fiber prepared in accordance with the process of claim 9.

19-25. (cancelled)